

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00191 121151Z

42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25

DRC-01 SAB-01 /167 W

----- 085538

R 121100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4160

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0191

DEPT PASS CAIRO

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR, TS

SUBJ: QADHAFI MEETS WITH BOURGUIBA

1. PRESIDENT QADHAFI ARRIVED AT JERBA YESTERDAY EVENING FOR WHAT TUNISIAN PRESS CHARACTERIZES AS "PRIVATE VISIT." IN FACT, VISIT IS FOR PURPOSE OF SEEING PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. HASSAN FODHA, FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 00191 121151Z

INFORMS ME THAT QADHAFI CALLED BOURGUIBA TWO DAYS

AGO REQUESTING AN URGENT MEETING. BOURGUIBA, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO CAP BON LAST NIGHT, PROPOSED MEETING IN JERBA TODAY, JANUARY 12. FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI ALSO PRESENT.

3. FODHA REITERATED WHAT MASMOUDI TOLD ME LAST WEEK TO EFFECT THAT QADHAFI FEELS ISOLATED FROM ARAB MAINSTREAM (EXCEPT FOR IRAQ) AND IS EXPECIALLY DISILLUSIONED WITH SADAT. HE FEELS SADAT IS LETTING ARAB SIDE DOWN RE CONCESSIONS HE APPEARS PREPARED TO MAKE TO ISRAEL. FODHA SAID BOURGUIBA WOULD SEEK TO PERSUADE QADHAFI OF NECESSITY ARAB COUNTRIES MAKE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER ACHIEVE PEACE.

4. COMMENT: FACT THAT QADHAFI, IN HIS CURRENT FRAME OF MIND, HAS TURNED TO BOURGUIBA WILL NO DOUBT REINFORCE TUNISIAN BELIEF THAT QADHAFI RESPECTS PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND LIKES TO CONSULT HIM "AS SON TO FATHER." WHETHER THIS IS TRUE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY CASE, BOURGUIBA'S COUNSEL TO QADHAFI WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE: HE WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO URGE QADHAFI TO GO ALONG WITH ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT, OR AT LEAST NOT RPT NOT ACTIVELY TO OPPOSE ONE.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005